Features of the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden

As you enter the garden, you will probably notice the *Koma-Inu* or "Lion Dogs" standing guard at the wooden gate to ward off evil spirits. These mythological beasts maintain balance in the Garden by warding off both evil and good spirits. One is listening and one is speaking.

Next, you will encounter the koi pond. The pointy faced koi are male and the wide faced koi are female. Ericka enjoys the fish's beautiful jewelled tones, but her favorite fish is Bubblegum, the pond's largest and oldest koi fish. Bubblegum is 17 years old and named for its pink color. Due to its being so well fed, Bubblegum's face has become so chubby that nobody knows if it's a boy or a girl!

The ceremony takes place on the moon bridge crossing the stream that cascades down from the waterfall. When reflected in the water, it becomes a full circle representing unity and completeness. The Giboshi fertility symbols atop the eight posts on the moon bridge are to bless the couples' new marriage and family.

About the Bride

Ericka is a native of Orange County, California where she has loved cats from a very early age, but they didn't always love her back. Wow, how things have changed! She graduated from University High School in Irvine and went on to earn her B.A. in Psychology and Social Behavior from U.C. Irvine. After that, she earned her Masters in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. Ericka has worked in libraries for over 20 years and loves helping connect people with the resources they need.

About the Groom

Born a Hoosier and having graduated from Indiana University, Jon spent most of the 1990s living in Alaska. After a series of confusing events, early 2000 found him in California where he later earned his Masters in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. Originally intending to become an Archivist, Jon discovered an affinity for public librarianship and has been working in public libraries for 12 years.

How They Met

Ericka and Jon met at work and connected over shared interests (cats and books). They dated for over three years before becoming engaged at the Huntington Library & Botanical Garden on May 28, 2017 with turtles and baby geese as witnesses.

They enjoy spending time with their family of cats and two Pomeranians: Beezel Bear and Ginger. They entertain themselves by exploring California, playing *Pokemon Go*, and collecting various awards.

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